

News in Brief

DWP PROPAGANDA; CONTINUING ZONE VIOLATIONS; COSTLY RAINFALL; NEPOTISM

ONGOING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN the county planning commission, the board of supervisors and Developer Dean Knight finally led last week to insistent rumors that Knight would soon sue the Inyo County government "for a million dollars." At week's end, the Big Pine developer was sought out for verification. His curt reply to reporters: "I don't want to discuss it at this time. If or when I do something, you will hear about it."

PRESIDING AS USUAL OVER THE FORMULATION OF ENLIGHTENED opinion in water matters, the Department of Water and Power carried its Gospel of Grab before a panel meeting with an extension class at UCLA. On the panel were, among others, a TIMES reporter, architects, flood control and sanitation experts, and DWP's retired Engineer Bob Phillips and Present Engineer Duane Georgeson. Conspicuously absent was any representative from Inyo County, even though the topic was "Water for Los Angeles." Georgeson told the panel that "the groundwater basin of the Owens Valley has hardly been tapped." He further assured the listeners that there are "really no problems at all in the valley." Quizzed by an Inyo member of the League of Women Voters who was present in the audience, Georgeson avowed there was no problem with DWP's land leases in

(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 4)

SOGGE ENTERS RACE

A FORMER STIERN AIDE CAMPAIGNS FOR 18th CONGRESSIONAL SEAT

IF, AS HE WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE, HE HAS NO "major programs" to offer, the new aspirant to the 18th Congressional seat poses an appealing image: that of common-sense Congressional overseership of federal programs and the money supporting them. But Bakersfield's Bob Sogge - (Why, for Heaven's sake, do all of our present and potential Congressmen blow in from Bakersfield, of all places?) - nonetheless comes into the race burned with the brand of the Democratic Party, which now presides over Congress' current spending spree. Sogge will make his appeal in Inyo County among the voters who are predominantly Demo - but who often show a swing to the Right once inside the curtains of the polling booth.

Last week, Sogge returned to Inyo as the bright, young (He's 34) and eager candidate knocking on doors and generally getting introduced. He makes few promises, but those who heard him say he's inclined to tell them what they want to hear: that somehow the "mess in Washington" and taxes and bureau regulations will somehow vanish into vapor and float away, with his help.

In his "platform," Sogge follows the recent line of many others. Downplaying the idea of new programs, he sees the Congress mandated to serve as a watchdog over programs already begun. In that capacity the Congressmen would growl and appropriately show their teeth warning and threatening any who would further en-

The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

LIMITED CIRCULATION

Published weekly

CHASING THE VOTES,
CAN SOGGE KETCHUM?

Week of
Mar. 6, 1978

"BEHR" OR "JARVIS"?

OFFERED THE CHOICE, MANY VOTERS FEEL THAT THE BEHR BILL FALLS SHORT OF THEIR HOPES FOR MEANINGFUL TAX RELIEF

FOR PROPERTY OWNERS THE TAX BURDEN OF RECENT years had become the first article of reform. When the bureaucracy failed to get the message, what had been sporadic agitation finally crystallized into a mandate: The Jarvis Amendment.

Last week, fearful that the initiative may be voted into reality, the legislators voted what they hoped might be an alternative, and Jerry Brown signed the Behr Tax Relief Bill. His signature was accompanied by fervent praise that was quickly picked up and echoed all the way down the line from every backwoods courthouse. "This," exulted the Governor, "is real property tax relief, not a gimmick." But the polls reflected a different view; many Californians saw Behr as a sallow and diminished version of what they wanted from a government - government everywhere - that they have come to distrust.

In Inyo County, the Behr Bill was accorded the veneration usually reserved for visiting saints. Said the Inyo County administrator, John K. Smith: "Thank God for the Behr Bill. It is meaningful relief for property-owners and renters. It will save the county and schools. Jarvis would destroy them." But the voters were not so sure, and telephone surveys here revealed a different view from out there: A backlash from the tax-weary populace who saw in Jarvis a treasured hope pleasingly congealed into law. Even those laboring under the kind of education one gets nowadays knew the difference between

(See BEHR-JARVIS, Page 6)

wrap the populace in red tape and the bills for high administrative costs.

In that (but not much more, since there the resemblance ends) his view is similar to that of pre-election Jerry Brown. Brown then allowed as how we should quit making laws and programs and somehow make the present ones work for us. From there on in Sogge avows no political kinship with the governor.

Sogge is dapper, unmarried, confidant, cast in the same mold as hundreds of other "bright young men" in statehouses from Sacramento to Washington. He is a politician aspiring perhaps to statesmanship. He is not, nor has he ever been, much of anything else in his adult life, save for the two years he spent in the Peace Corps in South America. He went to college (UC Santa Barbara), graduated with a masters' in political science, went off to El Salvador for two years, then emerged as a staff member (an able one, we're told) of State Senator Walter Stiern's Sacramento stronghold. In the latter capacity he was not unsuccessful in garnering votes for the boss and now relies

(See SOGGE, Page 3)

OKAY, SO WITH ALL THE FUSS OVER Hamilton Jordan and his "spitting" incident, we looked into it. He may have "spit" alright, but maybe not at the lady. Anybody who ever drank Washington's idea of "Amaretto and Cream" is probably justified in spitting anywhere he can. Really, Ham, you have no class at all. Maybe you should run over to the Mayflower and have an honest drink - like Billy Beer maybe?



BENETT KESSLER

SPEAKING OF WASHINGTON, THAT YOUNG FELLA FROM Bakersfield wants to go there as Democrat Congressman. He hit town last week, 34, well-groomed, pleasant of voice - and unmarried. A lot of the ladies went bonkers and switched to the Demos. Sogge vows 'em with his door-to-door person-to-person style.

ONE OF OUR READERS IN FLORIDA WHO HEADS UP AN organization calling itself, among other things, a "college compendium" and deals with university extension training, had gone through NEWS-LETTER'S reports of county resignations. He replied with this bit of high-brow humor: "Inyo County, California, is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer! Employment is not dependant upon race, creed, sex or ability!"

IF YOU'RE IN-TO NOISY COUNTRY WESTERN DANCING, which I am definitely not, you can look in on the "Saloon" attached to "Pea Soup Andersen's" at Mammoth. A group there, "Old Glory," features a girl singer - its only redeeming justification for existence; why is it that country western drummers can't hit anything but rim-shots; click, bang, click, bang? Andersen's is by the way one of only two places in the whole Mammoth swing where the matinee drinkers can get a drink before 5:30. Some folks like that.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INYO CHAPTER OF THE American Association of Retired People, we gleaned this last week: "Forty years ago when the government set out to fix the economy, you could help by buying an apple from the unemployed. To help the unemployed now, you're asked to buy a car." And this: "Things are really rough," remarked one businessman to another. "This morning Opportunity knocked at my door, but by the time I pushed back the bolt, turned the two locks, unlocked the chain and shut off the burglar alarm, it was gone." As for the Panama Canal issue, AARP suggests:

Save the Canal.

Give away Carter.

SUGGESTED BY FRIENDS FOR OUR VERY PLEASANT People Department: Lone Pine's Tom Noland. Says one interested citizen: Noland, the volunteer fire chief, recently took a lot of personal time to chart the locations of 37 remote Lone Pine Creek cabins - in case of needed emergency access. A comforting effort for those residents and so too for the conscientious Noland who tries to serve them. We might add that he's one of those fire chiefs that wants the public to know what's happening; he's considerate and helpful to the local reporters.

SOME MORE VPP's: The district attorney's office staff: Mary Mancini, Betty Truwe, Lynn Morra and Betty Lutzow. Also helpful to the newsgatherers.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS INITIATING A new program to study the "planning department, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors processes." High time. The current grand jury is also looking into a few things along those lines, or so we're told by sources at the courthouse.

AND WE WILL BE LOOKING INTO AN INCREASING NUMBER of goings-on in Mono County. Last week, Eastern Sierra News Service made an addition to its staff to cover points north. She is 24-year-old Carol Cecily Porter, a university photo-journalism grad. Carol headquarters at Mammoth Lakes.

A NEW STATEWIDE CONSUMER GROUP WARNS THAT THE Department of Water and Power is not being closely "watched." Richard Spohn of the State Department of Consumer Affairs, visited L.A. recently and told news sources that his department is pushing legislation to form a body funded by consumers, a statewide group of experts that would do "what the Public Utilities Commission is supposed to do." That legislation has passed one house of the legislature and stands a "fair chance" of passing the other. Says Tim Brick of L.A.'s Citizens Against Utilities Exploitation: "The PUC is supposed to do this...be a public watchdog...but instead, the PUC officials claim to be 'impartial arbitrators.' Now, in come the utilities with 10 high-power, high-priced experts, and the consumers have nobody."

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE "WORK ETHIC"? IF YOU want to know, take a look at all the how-to-get-rich-quick books offered in advertising in the mass-circulation media. "Earn a full week's salary in one day," says one. Another claims its book shows you "Fun, lazy ways to make a lot of money...unless you plan on working for the rest of your life." Another book promises the information you need to "borrow \$25,000 interest-free! Prosperity can be yours for \$5. Look like a millionaire!" So many people hate their jobs and spend a lifetime trying to escape them, and the publishers are aiming their pie-in-the-sky ads at these.

ADD VPP's DEPT: Russ Adams, the eager, hurrying proprietor of Phillips Camera House. He's our idea of a PR man: smiling, personal attention. And if he hasn't got it, he'll get it, whatever you need.

SOMEBODY'S SUING MY DENTIST, CLAIMING HE REMOVED two gold crowns while she was under anesthesia. One of those negligence cases which, right or wrong, has driven the cost of medical liability insurance out of sight.

SPEAKING OF GOLD CROWNS, WE KNOW SOMEBODY WHO had one removed, asked the dentist for it, and took it to Independence Jewelry-maker Dianne Gibson to be turned into a pendant. Set with a semi-precious stone, it turned out beautiful.

(More B.K.'s NOTES, Page 3)

B.K.'s NOTES, Continued

Face it, gals, gold is gold, no matter where it comes from.

WEDDING BELLS SOON FOR VON TATUM AND JANE Ripley of Bishop. The attractive Jane's from down south, employed now at Inyo-Mono Bank. Von is the son of Bishop Cattleman Don Tatum. The date? April 8, Grace Lutheran Church.

ANYBODY WHO'S SEEN THOSE TV COMMERCIALS FOR "Man of LaMancha" opening at the Pantages Mar. 10, wants to go. Kiley, who sang the original role, will appear as the singing Don Quixote. If you want to hear him do "The Impossible Dream" again - this time in person - better get your reservations.

GROWING SUPPORT EVERYWHERE FOR THE JARVIS Amendment. The legislature tried to pass the other bill as an alternative, but most people think it inadequate to get the tax help they've wanted for years - and now demand, in spite of official cries and dark forebodings.

A CONCERNED GROUP ON "THE OTHER SIDE OF THE mountain" is fighting the proposed nuclear power plant to be established near Wasco; Their fears are only in part "nuclear," and they're conferring with folks in Inyo County about the Department of Water and Power which is one of the promoters of the plant. They don't want the DWP as a "neighbor," and they're getting information about DWP's interference in local political and personal affairs, which they don't want.

END OF A TROUBLED LIFE. SADLY, WE MARK THE PASSING of "Les" Mappus. Continuing illness since an early age cost him a promising career as a teacher of the sciences, and before it was controlled two years ago, practically everything else. "Les" was a victim of manic-depression, and before that of poliomyelitis which left one of his arms crippled. That was before Salk. We knew him as kindly, altruistic, generous. He devoted much of his time, when able, to the Creative Workshop at Bishop, and, later, a similar project at Lone Pine. He made many friends among the senior citizens and among the handicapped. At 51, he was found dead in the small house he occupied alone at Lone Pine.

MOST INTERESTING ADS WE'VE SEEN IN A LONG TIME: The new campaign about "Episcopalians" carried each week in the local paper. The sponsor: The Episcopalian congregation at Lone Pine, Trinity Church.

AN AIDE TO CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM KETCHUM APPARENTLY overlooked the rest of the media - radio, etc. - in his press release concerning Ketchum's announcement for re-election. The county's other reporters read it, verbatim, in the local paper. Thanx, Bill, but we did have a couple of questions...

And may the news in your day be good news, every day...

Sincerely,

BK

SOGGE, Continued

with real confidence on that same ability in order to somehow beat out the firmly-entrenched William Ketchum, come November.

He won't elaborate on it in interviews, but Sogge probably sees opportunity in the fact that there exists no furiously percolating groundswell of popular support for Ketchum - but he also probably notes that, on the other hand, there is no grassroots opposition either, not at least in Inyo County where the folks often register Democratic, but vote Republican. Sogge says he hopes to reverse that trend.

Toward that end he remains purely Democratic, but speaks (with some effectiveness) a more cautious, conservative line. He declines any easy attempt to "label" him. "That's a day that is fading away," he says, and what we need now is "to avoid categorizations and any stereotyping and make government work."

With a predictability that is unsettling Sogge affords his listener with insights into an expected three-point program: "control inflation," "cut spending," and "control bureaucracy." It shows at least that he has a good handle on what people are griping about. He also asserts the conservative view on "a strong national defense," which sometimes contradicts the other three proposals. When asked how he, as a freshman Congressman, could implement his plans, Sogge replied in no fuzzier way than any other - and in fact demonstrated perhaps a greater eagerness and confidence than most.

In a midnight interview (He stopped at Independence on a drive from Bakersfield to

Bishop), here's how it went with NEWS-LETTER Reporter Benett Kessler:

K: What do you think you can do for Inyo County if you're elected Congressman?

S: I think one of the major things that we need from Congress in Inyo County is someone to protect the economy. Primarily, the recreation and tourism industry. And I think we need someone to work very, very hard in Congress to protect the economy here and promote a situation in which we can reduce inflation.



CANDIDATE SOGGE
"a greater eagerness"

K: Do you profess to know how to do that at this point?

S: I think there are two steps that we can take initially. First of all, tax cuts. We need a tax cut in order to promote a prosperous economy and thereby reduce inflation. And secondly we need to control government spending. We need a balanced budget and we need to keep the bureaucracy in tow and by doing that this will help us to reduce inflation.

(From another reporter, Sogge was asked about campaign expense, and contributions.)

S: It costs so much money to run for

(See SOGGE, Back Page)

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

Inyo County and pointedly informed the gathering that "one of the board of supervisors enjoys our leased land." Phillips, the engineer largely responsible for the "second aqueduct," and in retirement safely out of the range of Inyo's guns, allowed as how the water problems aren't DWP's fault, anyway, but the politicians' - to whom DWP answers. The DWP officials admitted that Los Angeles is now awash with unwanted water that is "too polluted for use." Quipped one of the panel members: "If it's so polluted, why are you dumping it in the ocean?" The UCLA meeting was one of many urged on L.A. organizations by DWP's hard-hitting public relations people. DWP's claims usually go unchallenged and the Inyo administration has dropped its earlier grand-jury-mandated plan to hire a public information officer.

IN OTHER DWP-RELATED MATTERS, INYO'S ATTORNEYS got a court turndown on their petition to recover \$85,000 in lawyer fees after they won, more or less, Inyo County's case against DWP in state courts. Although the court said no, the county may yet receive "a couple of thousand dollars" in court costs.

BETWEEN THE COUNTY CODE BOOK AND MANIFEST REALITY lies a long road of befuddling red tape. The supervisors had hit another entanglement of it when they looked again into chronic zone violations. On the hot seat before the supervisors were Planning Director Doug Sherburne and Building and Safety Supervisor Randy Davis. Supervisor Herb London complained that he could find a hundred violations pending, and Davis agreed, topping London with "It's more like 600." Board Chairman Richard McDonald bemoaned the county's loss of face in such a situation. "If the ordinance is not enforceable, it makes the county look foolish - and the proliferation of junkyards makes me look foolish." In that, he referred to dumps at Cartago and junk piles on Highway 395 south of Lone Pine. The county administrator offered little help: "The zoning ordinance is so general, there are no guidelines for the restraint of violations." Sherburne and Davis were instructed to come back with some ideas on enforcement, but the sups held little real hope for improvement. "The faces have changed," said Supervisor Wilma Muth, "but the rhetoric is the same." Unresigned, County Administrator John K. Smith said he "at least wants the rhetoric reduced to writing." Smith's modesty of aspirations was probably not un-noticed by the planning department representative; projects from that department are long aborning.

WITH A WRY HUMOR, SUPERVISOR HERB LONDON IS given to throwing out ideas that serve a purpose; and like tight little straight-backed chairs they are often designed to be uncomfortable. Last week he set a couple of new ones before the guests at the sups' meeting. Faced with discussion of a citizens' advisory committee for the long-stagnating Bishop Plan, London observed that "An expert is someone 50 miles away from home with a briefcase." He also made unabashed reference to "a sub-committee for special interests." The matter came

up when another supervisor suggested that the Bishop Plan had no real input from the south end of the county. When London proposed such a committee, it was adopted. That put the ball in Planning Director Doug Sherburne's court, along with a question from John K. Smith, the county administrator: "Do you find any fault with that proposal?"

Recently under supervisory heat, the planning director diplomatically answered: "I find no fault with any supervisors' suggestions." The reply was followed with much laughter. Smith added: "You've come a long way, Doug."

NEPOTISM, THAT SPECIAL LOVING, AND OFTEN PROFITABLE, consideration shown to close family members in official hiring, may have some merit as a practical policy in Inyo County. County officials took up the issue (and as quickly dropped it) last week in their consideration of personnel problems at Southern Inyo Sanatorium at Lone Pine; the facility operates sometimes at much less than its normal staff, according to Administrator Smith. In a county of limited labor pool, and sometimes large families, it is difficult to avoid the hiring of relatives who would work side by side. The Independence supervisor would do away with some of the restrictions. "There are no rules on boy friends and girl friends," argues Johnson, "...and what if two people in a department marry? I feel it serves no purpose." The discussion runs counter to actual practice, anyway. The hiring of relatives in several county offices is a long established practice, tolerated if not covertly encouraged.

THOUGH THE STORM DAMAGE WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY apparent to Inyo Countians, it cost them a bundle. Last week, the public works department was adding up the damage caused by flooding - most of it in the southern part of Inyo. Public Works Assistant Director Roger Glidden doubled the earlier amount requested from the state office of emergency services to pay for extensive road repairs near Trona and Tecopa. To establish proof of damage, the department offered the state a score or more photographs picturing washed out roads, damaged culverts, etc. The final tab: probably more than a hundred thousand dollars.

THE COUNTY'S HIGHLY VISIBLE "OFFICIAL" CARS, and the cost of operating them, came once again under the scrutiny of the supervisors - although it was indeed a light and casual scrutiny. After desultory discussion, and a proposal that only the sheriff and district attorney be allowed personal cars, the supervisors were shocked at their own austerity. They decided to think it over some more, and Supervisor McDonald suggested that the department heads, many of whom commute 80 or more miles a day, "respond" to the issue.

FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EARLY THIS week was issued a press release which "revealed" the official announcement of what has been under consideration at the recent series of meetings between DWP, the county, the Department (See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 6)

NEWS-LETTER welcomes letters and comment relevant to public issues, and the editors will publish those considered time-

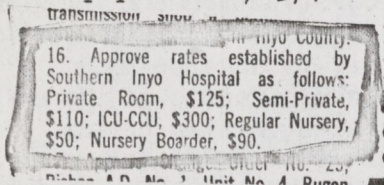
ly. Letters should not exceed 200 words and those with viewpoints concisely stated are most likely to be published. Address your statement to Box 531, Independence.



SOUTHERN INYO HOSPITAL: ALL THE BAD NEWS IS IN FINE PRINT

Mr. Heston and Ms. Kessler:

Let's start by reading number 16 in the 2/14/78 Supervisors Proceedings, Page 12 of Inyo Independent paper of 2/23/78.



Like it or not its the same old story about History repeating itself concerning Hospital Board Chairman Omie Mairs & Associates:

When they haven't raised hospital rates for a year or so they make big efforts to get such news splattered on the front pages of the papers, especially just before election. But when the election is over and they boost the rates, the news gets buried in the fine print on the inside pages. Seems all politicians do this, even those almost in our own backyards like Chairman Mairs, who often acts like he thinks the Hospital is a Private Club and not a public agency.

Proceeding: According to your Page 6 article in your Newsletter of 2/13/78 "the hospital appears to be smoothly functioning and well on its way into the black....."

- Question: So why the 25% and more jack-up of rates?

Comments: It looks like Chairman Mairs & Administrator Pinney have "turned around the freight train" and "turned the freight into a runaway train."

Concerning the "cash flow" it looks like they might have attached a new enlarged pipeline, with a super suction machine attached, direct to the patients' bank accounts and maybe even their life savings.

But it's like some folks say who have read the fine print on Page 12: Chairman Mairs and Pinney could care less nowadays with the election over and their empire secure. Just like all politicians.

Mairs seems to be more interested in golf and horse racing and the Dodgers.

As for Pinney, the fellow still resides in Bishop and that's where his "heart" might be. So what difference does it make to him when he and Mairs "sock it to" the Southern Inyo public & taxpayers?

Of course, Mr. Heston, you might say we are all wrong. But if we are, why didn't you spend 4, 5 or 6 days in the Hospital when you sprained your ankle and get a good rest?

Since you decided not to, was it because you didn't want Mairs, Pinney & Company proceeding to flatten your wallet in jigtime, even though you are condoning their doing it to others?

OK- now you can again run to Chairman Mairs and be his errand boy in your news reports. There's an old saying "You can't beat city hall," but Mairs can't keep all the goings-on swept under the rug forever.

- J.W.B.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: (See letter at left) Early last week, apprised of the arrival of Reader "J.W.B.'s" letter, Mr. Heston was moved to make the following response:

"On reading it, it occurs to me that although J.W.B.'s communication has merit, it clearly underestimates NEWS-LETTER'S capacity for independent reporting. And in view of the sprained ankle which J.W.B. mentions, it overestimates my capacity as an errand boy to "run" anywhere at all. As for resting up for "4,5 or 6 days" in the hospital, I frankly prefer the St. Francis, Marriott's Essex House, the Biltmore, or even the Holiday Inn. The service is about as good and it's cheaper. Even with tips.

"I don't 'condone' anything. On cane or crutch I merely hobble about and observe. Like a curious blue heron in a marsh, supported as it were on sticks. This evokes more irritation than sympathy from Ms. Kessler who is meanwhile industriously smoking out whatever facts she can about the hospital operation. In that endeavor she runs into obstacles: All her sources wisely remain anonymous, or, as in the case of 'J.W.B.,' reveal only their initials."

LITTLE LAKE LETTER REFLECTS GROWING "JARVIS" SUPPORT

The Editor,

The American people can, if they so desire, make a choice, at the polls and in the decisions they make daily, whether they want to be taken care of or they prefer to take care of themselves.

They can sign up for welfare or earn their own way, if they are so able.

They can vote for additional government spending or they can limit gov't spending, at the polls and (according to) their willingness to refuse or accept gov't funds.

In my opinion, increasing wages is not the way to reduce inflation, the results of gov't deficit spending or Keynesian economics. When Pres. Carter asked the people to reduce inflation, he was directing attention away from the prime culprit, the federal government.

Wage problems are the results of federally-originated deficit spending - foreign aid to Communist countries, studies to analyse why certain animals mate or live as they do, increased wages for Congressmen, Senators, the President, etc. These things filter down and must affect communities on the local level.

Increasing county costs only help to add to increased inflation, i.e., paid management proposals.

Unions, striking on services, are not the answer but rather help to add to the cause.

The only answer is to get to the root of the problem - county-wide, state-wide, nationwide. Vote out of office those who support deficit spending, Keynesian Ec.

The Jarvis Amendment of limitation of taxes is a step in that, the right direction.

(FORUM Continued, Page 7)

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

ment of Water Resources, and the attorney general. The press release contained little not already reported by private sources, and dealt essentially with the fact that the several parties involved were hoping to reach some agreement on an Owens Valley water management plan. The release said further that "an interim pumping rate" plan is also under discussion. Still unanswered is the question of who will pay for such a study. And further complicating the proposal is the fact that L.A.'s City Council will have to give its approval of any agreement, and so, apparently, will local supervisors after they hold public hearings here. Said Administrator Smith: "I feel we've got some progress. For awhile we were spinning our wheels, but the last two meetings have assumed a more positive position, bringing things into a cohesive effort."

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IN A POST-MIDNIGHT RAINSTORM LAST WEEK THREE sheriff's deputies wandered the streets of Independence on "stake-out" duty. They were determined to capture the burglars that had broken into parked vehicles on six consecutive evenings. Although the wet stake-out - "on foot from 12:30 am to 6 a.m." - netted no culprits at the time, it did "lead to the arrests" made the next day. In the downpour the officers were able to uncover information that led to the two teen-aged suspects, arrested at Big Pine and Bishop. The boys provided the officers with a bonus: A gun taken as part of the loot had been turned over to an adult, Eddie Leigh, who was promptly charged, as an ex-felon, with possession of a weapon. All in all, the officers recovered about \$800 in stolen goods, including guns, stereo equipment, a CB Radio, etc. News-men, already apprised of the series of burglaries, had been asked to withhold reports prior to the "stake-out," since officers did not want the young thieves warned that police were hot on the trail. The wait paid off: The CB radio had been taken from the car of part-time News Reporter David Smith.

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AT BISHOP FOUR OTHER JUVENILES WERE ARRESTED ON charges of attempted rape. Four youths drove to "Hot Ditch," a popular teen-age spa below Keough Hot Springs, with a young woman, and according to charges, attempted to rape her. On being finally taken home, she called the sheriff's office. The arrests soon followed.

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ANOTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEAD BEMOANED THE loss of still another "top county worker" who last week resigned from the public works dep-

artment. Said Public Works Director Robert Fisher: "We hate to see her go. It's difficult to train somebody in her job because of the requirements of the state controller on road funds. We would like to have a promotion exam in the county to get somebody familiar with county procedures." Joining the recent exodus from key county positions is Patty Duncan, 29, of Independence. She will join her boss who is also resigning. (Asst. PW Director Roger Glidden), to serve as office manager for Hubbard Construction and Glidden Engineering. Said Duncan: "I'm leaving for a better opportunity to advance myself." In that she echoed the sentiments of several others who recently have vacated county jobs, often to the regret of the administration.

BEHR-JARVIS, Continued

a 30% tax reduction (Behr), and a 60% tax reduction offered by Jarvis. At Sacramento, the statehouse remembered, almost as an afterthought, that non-property-owners often vote too; so they lumped into the Behr Bill a paragraph to include renters. They'd be given an income-tax credit increase - from \$37 to \$75, or about enough in a year to pay half the cost of next week's groceries. In the eyes of many the Behr Bill so frantically passed served only to support their previous conviction that, finally, somebody had a handle on the bureaucrats' fat purses. The renters could also see that there was nowhere evident a groundswell of landlords clamoring to reduce rents if Behr - or even Jarvis - becomes law.

At first, Jarvis was unclear, another measure leaving indistinct impressions; but later, once its import was recognized, it threw

The California Taxpayers Association announced over the weekend that its membership will lend support to the Behr Tax Relief Bill. Although political observers saw the announcement as of negligible import, the organization's backing may spark interest from other taxpayers' groups. The CTA announcement said Behr is "a much more acceptable alternative."

officialdom into a panic and evoked only continued threats of discontinued services; it was not what everybody wanted to hear. Even now in Inyo County few average people see any service useful enough to be remembered anyway; unless by "service" is meant the increasing regulatory power that emanates from the courthouse.

Administrator Smith said that under the Jarvis bill, local government would become "a pauper relative of the state," which then would "dictate what we do." Smith says he does not see Jarvis as a break for the property owner "but for big money."

Inyo's tax assessor, Jack Clay, is less certain. "At this point, I'll wait and see," he said. "There are too many unanswered questions, but there are definitely bad things about Jarvis."

The county's League of Women Voters has joined the state League in opposition to Jarvis. But in the eyes of many voters the California League commands somewhat less than mass adoration. Many of the state League's warn-

(See BEHR-JARVIS, Page 7)

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INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

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FORUM, Continued

New widows with their income suddenly gone, those elderly with fixed incomes, need our help with reduced government spending which results in the reduction of the cost of food, services, etc. Reducing costs in operating schools, etc., will follow.

- Pat McClendon
Little Lake

(Editor's Note: In her letter supporting the Jarvis Amendment Ms. McClendon echoes the view of a growing number of Californians. Last week's political polls indicate a strong swing toward Jarvis acceptance. Many Californians are angered by officialdom's only answer to Jarvis: "cut services and reduce personnel," with no proposals to increase efficiency, cut expense accounts, or make government more responsive.)

THE "ROBIN HOOD" BILL, AB65, MIGHT
CUT DEEP IN INYO: A LETTER FROM O.V.

(The following is a letter from an Inyo school superintendent to Assemblyman Larry Chimbole. Due to space considerations, portions of the letter are deleted, but the essentials remain.)

Dear Assemblyman Chimbole,

My thesis is that the students of rural secondary schools still have a right to the same kind of educational opportunities as the students in urban and suburban areas. Our students should be able to qualify for entry into the California university system. To meet these requirements a student has to have at least two years of a foreign language, advanced courses in mathematics, and at least one advanced laboratory science class.

Our students should have the same opportunities for exploratory and vocational courses in the shops, in business, and in home economics.

Our secondary students should have the opportunity to study in the humanities such as art, music and literature.

Obviously, the basic courses in math, social sciences, and English are needed and will continue, but they shouldn't be the only courses for our students.

I think as you consider the recovery phases of Assembly Bill 65, you should assure the small, secondary schools of full curricular offerings before any money is taken from the district.

For a small district to have full course offerings, it is necessary to have the teacher trained and able to teach the classes. This can be especially costly. For one of the more advanced classes the enrollment can drop 3 or 4 students. We already alternate these classes so they are offered every other year. If we eliminate them our students cannot qualify for the California universities.

Can you, in your legislative efforts, introduce the concept that full curricular offerings at the rural secondary level are a necessary expense before the state takes money from the district?

...I think the state might take a compre-

BEHR-JARVIS, Continued

ings against Jarvis appear to some to be more or less private speculations unencumbered by convincing evidence.

"Welfare" has long been a costly thorn in the taxpayer's hip-pocket. From the Inyo welfare office, Director Norman Paulson advises that if Behr, rather than Jarvis, passes, the Inyo people will be relieved of a welfare tab amounting to more than \$600,000 - a local relief in itself which may tempt a few to vote against Jarvis, but which will put the welfare load into the hands of the state; state and federal governments often assume such responsibility, but only at the cost of local control.

Wisely, the City of Bishop has provided a buffer against the possibility of a Jarvis victory. About 10% of the municipal income may be lost under Jarvis, but a surplus fund of \$275,000 in the city coffer would take the edge off losses. City Administrator Fred Coburn says Bishop's municipal government would prefer to keep its surplus intact, but remains prepared for the jolt.

At least one of the county fathers supports the Jarvis amendment. He is Bishop's Supervisor Herb London who sees in the Jarvis initiative all the conservative visions he holds dear. In that position he now stands polarized against the candidate who opposes him in the upcoming election, H.B. "Lefty" Irwin. Irwin says he was one of the original signers of the Jarvis petition, but that he now believes it is "not designed to help the homeowners, but big business."

Irwin was asked late last week if he thinks the county could cut expenses in the event Jarvis passes. He replied with a ready assurance of the comfortable, home-grown kind: "Yes. In our county government, there's a lot of waste." As for the schools, Irwin says he doesn't think the schools can make it with Jarvis. "It would hurt to the point that would be detrimental to education."

As an aspiring supervisor - who may later have to deal with any cutbacks caused by Jarvis, Irwin offered: "It's unfortunate that the public had to go to Jarvis, a kind of overthrow tactic. The public could get out of hand and not know where to stop."

Clearly, a public that can "get out of hand" is the last thing any officeholder, present or potential, wants to face. But out beyond the halls of money and regulation there is a thin and distant smiling; Many in California, and in Inyo, see in Jarvis an opportunity of increased control over government. Like a forgotten lover they are resentful of the strain of being too long apart with too little say over where the relationship is heading.

hensive look at the total dollars coming into a district before they overact in their reallocation of local property tax dollars.

NOTE: Mr. Gilfillan refers to the AB65 proposal that would redistribute school money, taking it from "richer" districts to help "poorer" districts.

Sincerely,
John J. Gilfillan
Superintendent
Owens Valley School

MAR 6 1978

SOGGE, Continued

Congress ! Let me give you a personal experience. Now, I resigned my position with Senator Stiern on February eighth. I will receive no income from now until election day in November. And, once elected, I would take the oath of office on January third and I don't know when a Congressman gets paid, but certainly it would be sometime in late January. And the sacrifice that a candidate has to make in order to run and win is an enormous financial sacrifice. I personally feel that that sacrifice is useful. ...and important to me because it will give me the opportunity to contribute to the people in our district."

K: Are you going to comment on some expenditure by Congressman Ketchum?

S: Well, it just costs a lot of money to run for Congress and there are Congressmen across the country who spend, uh....over a hundred thousand dollars, uh....to run for Congress every two years and that makes it a very expensive proposition for different candidates in seeking office. And when, uh.. when a non-incumbent goes up against an incumbent the odds are even more difficult. But I think that we can win and we can win because we're willing to go door-to-door, talk to people on a person-to-person basis, have direct first-hand access to people - and we're getting enormous amount of support from across the district.

K: Have you had much support from this county?

S: We have many friends and associates here in Inyo County, and I'm sure that we will

put together a very large volunteer organization which will help us to win here in Inyo County.

K: Has that organization already begun?

S: It has begun in a very small way. We have been collecting some signatures for the signature drive (for nomination). And we have people who have helped us in that, and they expressed an interest to help in the future, so what I'm doing here now is to help develop that organization.

K: Is there one person or group of people who are in charge of this?

S: We hope there will be many different people in charge of many different aspects of the campaign. As we go through the campaign, we'll identify certain people and ask people to take responsible roles, and I think we'll have a very large committee of people helping us here.

K: Do you get the feeling here that people are looking for some new leadership?

S: I think people in this district are looking for leadership, period. Leadership in protecting our economy, leadership in promoting constructive, reasonable solutions to the problems of inflation and government spending. And I find all across the district a, uh.... yearning for strong leadership in Congress.

Prior to the taped interview, Sogge was asked who his primary backers are, in terms of campaign donations, and how he is currently meeting expenses. He replied, again, only that "it costs a lot of money to run for Congress," and that he would not know what might later be forthcoming in campaign donations.

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